

31

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/815,577	WITTMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kevin Quarterman	2879	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 23 June 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12, 14, 15, 17 and 18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendments and remarks received 23 June 2006 have been entered and overcome the objection to the title.

Drawings

2. The replacement-drawings were received on 23 June 2006. These drawings are acceptable.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-12, 14-15, and 17-18 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate subject matter from canceled claim 13 and to also specify that the functional layer is an organic light-emitting layer. Applicant argues that the applied reference (Ando) teaches a vacuum-type electron-emitting display device instead of an OLED. Applicant's arguments regarding independent claim 1 are persuasive.
5. Applicant has also amended independent claim 17 to incorporate subject matter from canceled claim 13 and argues that the applied reference (Kim) does not teach the mechanical connector having reinforcing strips or points. Applicant's arguments are persuasive.
6. Thus, regarding independent claim 1, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a planar electronic component comprising, in addition to other limitations of

Art Unit: 2879

the claim, a mechanical connector with adhesive characteristics matched to materials of the covering layer and the substrate, the mechanical connector having connectors selected from the group consisting of reinforcing strips and points disposed between the substrate and the covering layer. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 1, claims 1-12 and 14-15 are also allowable.

7. Regarding independent claim 17, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests an OLED display device comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, a mechanical connector with adhesive characteristics matched to materials of the covering layer and the substrate, the mechanical connector having connectors selected from the group consisting of reinforcing strips and points disposed between the substrate and the covering layer. Due to its dependency upon independent claim 17, claim 18 is also allowable.

8. The subject mechanical connector described above is provided for protecting the device against environmental influences and strengthening the support structure of the device. The design is new and unique to the art.

9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2879

Contact Information

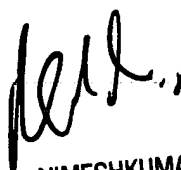
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Quarterman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2461. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (7-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kevin Quarterman
Examiner
Art Unit 2879

kq 
7 July 2006


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800